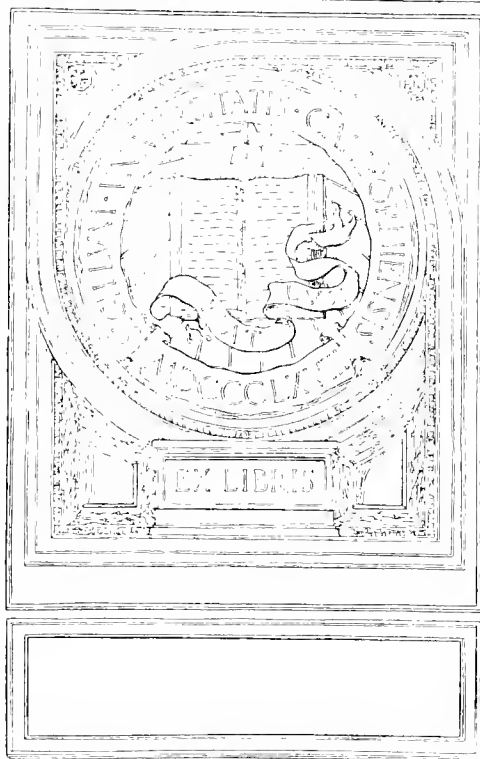


Some Account of the Character of
the late Right Honourable Henry
Eilson Legge

By

John Butler

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
AT LOS ANGELES



S O M E
A C C O U N T
O F T H E
C H A R A C T E R
O F T H E L A T E
R I G H T H O N O U R A B L E
H E N R Y B I L S O N L E G G E.



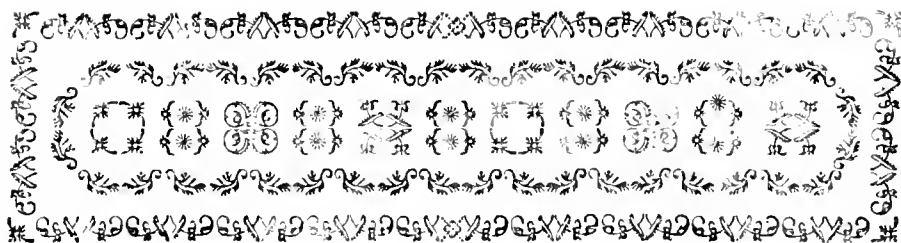
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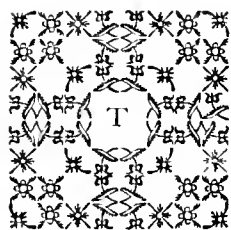
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S O M E
A C C O U N T
O F T H E L A T E

Right Hon^{ble} HENRY BILSON LEGGE.



THE Reputation of Men, who have been distinguished by their Parts, Virtues and Public Services, being canvassed by many, who had little or no Personal Knowledge of them, and the Judgments formed by others being sometimes Malitious, and generally Partial, there remains, in most Cases, some Justice to be done to the Memory and real Merits of such Men. This is but seldom a Popular undertaking. The Public is more attentive to Censure, than Praise, and, during the Lives of Eminent men, a true Description of them is discredited, by the Resemblance it bears to the Language of Flattery.

The Character of Mr. LEGGE is so circumstanced, that a true account of Him may venture to appear, without soliciting Attention, or Credit. It comes too late to be suspected of Flattery, and the Public is prepossessed in his favor; which would be con-

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siderable

siderable Encouragements to an Essay of this kind, even without the farther Advantage of an Appeal, which might be made, to many Great and Respectable Persons, who knew Mr. LEGGE, and are qualified, to attest any Truth, or expose any Falseness, concerning Him.

He was so well known, that it seems unnecessary to mention, that he was Nobly born. The formal Introduction of a Pedigree is superfluous, in the case of a Character Eminently Meritorious in itself; and his noble Family will pardon the Liberty of saying, that, however great the Honor might be, which he derived from his Birth, it became inconsiderable, when compared with his Personal Merits and Excellencies.

He was not educated at any of those Schools, which produce most of the Ornaments and Supporters of their Country; but he was a remarkable instance, how indifferent it is, in what Nursery a Man of strong Parts, natural Wit, and superior Judgment has been raised. Notwithstanding he entered upon Business very early, and applied himself to it with the closest Attention, very few of his Rank were so well acquainted with the most eminent Greek and Roman Classics; and he was singularly happy in the Application of Passages, which he seemed to have had hardly time to consider.

He was designed, in his younger Years, for the Service of his Country in the Royal Navy; but that Service being at that time inactive, he quitted it after one or two Voyages, and becoming known to Sir ROBERT WALPOLE, was received into the Family and Confidence of that Minister; and after having filled the Station of his Secretary for some Years, he obtained a Seat in Parliament, and passed through the several Offices, of Secretary to the Treasury; Secretary to the Duke of DEVONSHIRE, Father of the late Duke, as Lord Lieutenant of Ireland; one of the Commissioners of the Admiralty; Envoy Extraordinary to the Court of BERLIN; Treasurer of the Navy; Chancellor and Under-Treasurer of the Exchequer, and one of the Commissioners
of

of the Treasury; and he continued, to the last, one of his Majesty's Privy Council.

These things are barely, and perhaps not accurately mentioned, because other Men have passed thro' such Offices. Eminence of Station not being, in every case, an Argument of Eminent Worth; it is, in itself, but a feeble Recommendation to Posterity, and will prove no more at best, than that the Person exalted was Fortunate. The Moderation and Equanimity, with which Mr. LEGGE bore his Success, was the more extraordinary, as he was one of the few Men, advanced to high Offices, who are not so much obliged to Fortune, as to Themselves; and if his Character could be duly represented to future times, his Promotion would appear to have done honor to the present Age.

The Characters of Persons of Distinction are often celebrated, by a Recital of the Vices and Failings, from which they are exempt; and in this view, there are perhaps none, among the most exceptionable, totally excluded from Praise. But this would be but a poor Description of the real Virtues and Excellencies of Mr. LEGGE. They were inconsistent with many or great Failings, and they so possessed the Attention of his Observers, and so effectually concealed the few Foibles, which he might have, that Malice itself appears, from some things which were said of him, to have been quite at a loss, on what part of his Character to alight.

He did not pretend to be singular in any of his Virtues, and it would be a needless Exaggeration to represent him so. But some of the Virtues he had, appeared so much the genuine Result of that happy Constitution of Heart and Temper, which distinguished him, that they became Characteristical in Him; and a Description of his Person and Manner would not present him more strikingly to the Memory of those, who knew him, than the bare mention of his Integrity, Candor and Benevolence.

But

But he was distinguished by Abilities less common, than even his Virtues. They might seem to be limited, as having been chiefly displayed to the Public, in the last Office he filled. But the fundamental Qualifications for such Offices of Business, as are not professional, being much the same, it may be said, without derogating from the Great Men, who have excelled in their Departments, that Mr. LEGGE was qualified for any. With a penetrating Apprehension, and a Memory remarkably tenacious of substantial Knowledge, he had a Judgment so clear and sound, that it seems hardly possible for any human Mind, to be more Accurate, Unembarrassed, and Comprehensive of all the Ideas related to the Subject before him, as well as of all the Consequences, which follow from comparing them.

He assisted these great Powers of his Understanding, by an indefatigable Industry, not commonly annexed to extraordinary Parts; and he kept his Mind open for the Admission of any material Instruction, by a Modesty of Temper natural to Men, who seem to need Instruction least. Tho' he was never first Commissioner of the Treasury, yet his Office of Chancellor of the Exchequer obliging him to move for the Supplies in Parliament, and to propose the Ways and Means, he seemed to think himself responsible, for his Knowledge in the Business of his Office, as well as for his Integrity in the Discharge of it. He did not, it is well known, solicit, nor accept the Office without Reluctance, being discouraged by the distinguished Abilities of two great Predecessors of his, whose Eminence in that Branch was particularly known and understood by him.

But he was prevailed with to sacrifice his Ease and Happiness; and he soon manifested, how considerable the Sacrifice was, in his Estimation, by the Assiduity, with which he applied himself to the study of the whole system of the Public Revenue, as well as by the Gratitude, with which he embraced the Aids, that Books or Men could give him; and, by naturalising in his own Mind all the Knowledge he could collect, he acquired in a very short space of time, as familiar an Acquaintance with that complex

complex important Business, as if he had been trained up to it from his Infancy, and had made it the sole Study of his Life.

He digested in his Thoughts, and knew how to deliver with the utmost Precision and Perspicuity, a methodical Account, of the Produce of every Tax ; of its former State ; of its probable future Diminution or Increase ; of its relation to any other Tax, as well as to public Liberty ; of the Condition of every branch of Trade and Luxury, and of the Country in general, to bear the Burthens laid upon it ; of the state of Public Credit, and the due Proportion between the Terms of a Loan and the public Exigencies ; of the Means of alleviating the national Burthens, by real Oeconomy, in the Reduction of the Establishment, as well as by Practicable, unpretending Schemes for the gradual Discharge of the public Debt ; and of the various Contingencies, which might forward or retard that great Work. He has left written Evidences of the singular Skill and Accuracy, with which he considered each of these Subjects.

Furnished with this Knowledge, to a degree apparently Peculiar to him, he entered upon his Office, with the additional Advantage, of a general Prepossession in favor of his Integrity ; and, during the time he served the Crown in that Department, he executed, without the Power of a Minister, and without any Loss of Popularity, the most Unpopular, tho' at that time necessary Work, of raising more Supplies, than had ever been raised, within the same number of years.

The Popularity of the Administration, with which he acted, and the encouraging Successes of the War, doubtless greatly assisted him ; and it would be infamous to detract, in any degree, from the Merits of an Administration, which did so much Honor to the King and Nation. But they, who have the Spirit to persevere, in admiring the public Measures of that time, will do Mr. LEGGE the Justice to confess, that his personal Merit, and his Credit with Parliament and with the Public, were al-

ways clearly discernable, when he conducted the invidious part of the Business of Government.

Without pretending to Eloquence, and with a Subject, which will not easily admit the Exercise of that Talent, he was heard with an Attention seldom paid to Speeches, which must consist principally of Arithmetical Details. He was sure to keep up that Attention, by a Precision in his Thoughts, which would not permit him, had he been inclined, to be tediously verbose; and he preserved his own, and, in a certain degree, the Credit of Government, by neither pretending, nor promising, more than he could, with the strictest regard to Truth.

After his Dismissal from Office, he continued, whilst his Health would permit, to attend, with the same Application and Vigilance, to the national Finances, as a Member of Parliament; and, in more than one instance, he assisted Persons, who had no particular Claims upon him, rather than the Crown or the Public should suffer by his Silence. And this he did at a Time, when he thought himself personally affronted, by the Resolution of a great Board to deprive a near Relation of his, who was not of an Age to be obnoxious to Government himself, of an Emolument, which had with equal Propriety and Kindness been conferred upon him.

With so deep and extensive a Fund of Knowledge, so precisely arranged in his Mind, and most judiciously applied to the Service of his Country, Mr. LEGGE was eminently qualified for the more inactive Enjoyments of Literature. Besides the Pleasure he extracted from the best Historians, Philosophers and Divines, he had a Taste for Works of Imagination, not common even among Scholars; and knew how to relieve his Labors and Cares, in his few vacant hours, with the best Writers of that kind, ancient and modern, whose Beauties he would relish and assimilate to his own Ideas, with all the Satisfaction of an ingenious Man at perfect Leisure.

But

But his Friends could not spare him much uninterrupted Pleasure of this sort ; for he had another Faculty, likewise foreign to the unentertaining track of Business. He was one of the best Companions of his time. His Wit was Copious, Easy, Cheerful, Chaste and Original. He would animate the gravest Conversation with some striking Image, which presented all the essential Circumstances of a Subject at once before the Mind ; and he illustrated his Images by Embellishments, which the most fruitful Imagination could not produce, without the Aid of a most cheerful Temper. Having a perpetual Supply of this sort of Entertainment, he was never tempted to have recourse to the poor Expedient of keeping up Mirth by Excesses or Licentiousness. Nor would his Humanity suffer him to display his Wit, at the expence of any Person in Company. He could be lively, without the Aid of other Men's Foibles ; or if they pressed upon him so directly, as not to be avoided, his Raillery was inoffensive, and even agreeable to the Object of it. If absent men were mentioned, whom he either disliked or despised, he had the happy Art of venting his Disgust or Contempt by some pleasant Expression of Indifference, which sheltered perhaps an odious or a despicable Character from more severe Reflections, by only giving it a ridiculous Aspect. Had his good Sayings been treasured up, as those of much inferior Wits have been, they would have descended to Posterity ; and many of them would have been relished, without a Comment, in any Age. But he aimed at no Reputation of this sort, and was so natural and easy in his Manner, that his brightest Thoughts dropped from him, like common Conversation, without the least appearance of any View to the Success, with which they were delivered.

These extraordinary Powers, which are seldom united in the same Mind, and continued remarkably vigorous in his, to his last moments, were the more amiable as well as solid in him, as they were accompanied by a most Virtuous Heart. It would be a painful task, and revive the Excesses of private Grief, to represent the Loss of him in his Domestic Character, where he was, in every Respect and Relation, an illustrious Example of Fidelity
and

and Tendernefs. But his Benevolence was not limited here, nor by any other known boundary, than the Limits of his Power, or the Demerits perhaps of particular Men. Nor were thefe in every cafe, obftacles to his Good-will. He had doubtlefs Penetration enough to difcern human Failings upon a very flight Acquaintance; but he never fuffered his Mind to dwell upon them, if he could difcover, or thought he had difcovered, a fufficient quantity of that Probity and Good nature, which he valued above other Accomplifhments, and efteemed a Compenfation for many Failings.

He feemed more particularly averfe to Hypocrify and Affectation of every fort, perhaps as being moft oppofite to his own Temper and Character. Common Infirmities appeared either Ridiculous or Tolerable to him; but he could not bear to fee the Commerce of mutual Good-will and Esteem interrupted by the Frauds of unfair Dealers, who give themfelves Credit for more Virtue and Ability, than they have. He had a better Right than moft men, to entertain and exprefs a ftrong Diflike of fuch Perfons, not only as he was perfectly unaffected himfelf, but as he was difpofed, in other cafes, to make great Allowances for the natural Defire men have to advance forward in Life. He was known to contribute warmly, to the utmoft of his Power, fometimes at the Hazard of his Power, to promote the Views of his Friends. He would ingenuoufly confefs, that he had an End of his own, in conferring fuch Obligations. His State of Health, till within a Year before he died, feemed to promife him a vigorous and lafting old age; and he thought a faithful obliged Friend would be the moft valuable of all the Subfidia Senectutis.

His Sincerity being like the reft of his Virtues, tinctured with his natural good humor, produced in him that amiable Candor, which fometimes broke out, in the midft of political Contests, in a frank Acknowledgment of Truths on either fide, which little minds, engaged in Contests, are ftudious to fupprefs. Indeed, he could well afford to be Candid on all Occafions, being confcious, that the known Purity of his Intentions would fup-
port

port him in any Concession, which Truth or Good-nature impelled him to make.

He was as Ingenuous in speaking of Himself, as upon any other subject, and, instead of urging his Pretensions with Vehemence, or, as is often done, with a Disregard to Truth, He was never known to assume false Merit in his Conduct, either public or private; and his Friends rather blamed him, for not valuing himself sufficiently upon the Merit he could Truly pretend to. But he was of too gentle and easy a Mind, to avail himself of all his Claims, and trusted to the world, of which he had a better Opinion, than men of Penetration generally have, that his Conduct, so far as it was understood, would secure to him as much Reputation, as he desired. Nor was he deceived in his Opinion; for the inward Respect of Mankind towards him was as general, as he could have wished it to be, had Ambition been his ruling Passion. The public Sense of his Worth was signally manifested at one time, by many unsought Marks of Esteem, and such, as have always been thought Honourable. Nor did they appear to be the result of mere transient Fits of Popularity; for his Reputation continued unshaken to the End of his Life, and the almost Universal Regret of Men of all Parties followed him to his Grave.

But the best Men cannot pass thro' Life without some Censure. His known Public Conduct, and his exemplary Private Life, seemed to secure him from any attack of this sort. But Envy and Malice being keen and active, will suspect where they cannot charge, and insinuate where they cannot accuse. The strict and unaffected Oeconomy he practised in behalf of the Public, as far as lay in his Power, together with his Aversion in his private Life, to the mere glittering Expences of Vanity, brought upon him the suspicion of too much Parsimony in his Temper, which They, who best knew Mr. LEGGE and his Affairs, knew to have been ill founded. He did not transgress the Bounds of his Fortune, and involve his Posterity in Difficulties, in order to purchase to Himself the temporary Fame of Splendor and Magnificence; but he did full Justice to the World,

by living up to his Rank and Fortune, as well as by many private Acts of Beneficence, which he was too generous to divulge; and, after having evinced his disinterestedness, on many Occasions, in the course of public Business, he amply satisfied those, who might suspect him of Parsimony, or might, from his Unpretending manner, mistake him, as wanting the Spirit, of which he did not boast, that he valued his Honor more, than any other Consideration.

It would have sufficed to mention this, in general terms, without entering into a proof of it, had he not made it his dying Request to the Noble Personage, who was best intitled to his Affection and Confidence, to lay before the Public, in Vindication of him, the only Reasons he knew of his Dismissal from Office. He had acquiesced silently in that Dismissal, apprehending, that the time might come, when his irreproachable Conduct and Character would efface the Impression of private Misrepresentations. But when he found, that the Hopes of a Recovery, with which he was often flattered, in the course of his Disease, were quite vanished, and that it would be his Lot, to die in a State of Disgrace with a most Amiable and Virtuous K——, he apprehended for himself, lest his Good Name, which the Best men have always wished to transmit to Posterity, should suffer from a Presumption, easily propagated, that there must have been something Wrong in him, to produce a Dismissal, which is, in the Case of most Individuals removed from Offices of State, a Punishment of Misconduct.

He was therefore anxiously desirous, the World should know, that he was not turned out for any Blemish in his private or public Character, and he thought it the most satisfactory method of securing his posthumous Reputation, to publish the few Papers, which explain his Case. He apprehended himself intitled to do this, in his own Vindication, as the Papers contain no Secrets, either of State, or of private Friendship. They are, agreeably to his Desire, here laid before the World, in their original Form,
with

with only a previous short Narrative of the Transaction, which occasioned them.

Upon the present Duke of BOLTON's Accession to his Title, in the Year 1759, Mr. LEGGE was solicited to succeed his Grace, as one of the Representatives of the County of Southampton, his own Seat in Parliament chancing at that time to be vacant. He could not well have been importuned to an Undertaking more unpleasant to him, and he declined it more than once, without Reserve. The Bustle of a popular Election was unnatural to his Liberal Mind and Manners, and a Relation of that kind to a large County, in which he resided, might appear inconvenient to Him, whose hands were at that time filled with public Business. But he was prevailed with to accept the Offer, by the repeated Intreaties of his Friends, which were enforced by the Plea, that his Fortune and Character would do Credit to a Party, which had all his Life been countenanced by Government, and with which He had ever acted Uniformly, tho' with undissembled Moderation and Good Humor towards the other Party. And he had the farther Encouragement, of hoping, from the Interest of the Crown exerted in his favor, in Conjunction with that of the then prevailing Party in the County, as well as with his own Personal Interest, which was very considerable, that his Election would not be contested.

However, he fell into the disagreeable Work of a Contest. His Competitor was Mr. STUART, now Sir SIMEON STUART ; and he found Mr. STUART's Interest adopted by a noble Lord, with whom Mr. LEGGE was not at variance; who had no apparent Relation of any kind to the County; whom therefore Mr. LEGGE did not think of consulting, before he resolved to comply with the Desire of his Friends.

After the County had been canvassed on both sides, Mr. STUART thought fit to decline, and Mr. LEGGE received the following Letter ;

“ Downing,

“ Downing Street, Nov. 25th, Monday Evening.

“ Dear Sir,

“ Lord Bute sent to me this Morning, and told me, that having
 “ an Opportunity of saving you, he had embraced it, and done
 “ you an act of Friendship; for that Mr. Stuart having been
 “ with him for his Advice, whether to leave or pursue the Elec-
 “ tion, as some of Mr. Stuart’s friends thought this critical Sea-
 “ son of an Invasion hanging over the Kingdom to be a very im-
 “ proper time for parliamentary Contests, his Lordship had de-
 “ termined the point for relinquishing the pursuit; in consequence
 “ of which Mr. Stuart was to acquaint you with his Resolution of
 “ declining a Poll. Lord B. added, that neither he, nor the
 “ greater Person, whose Name hath been used during the Com-
 “ petition, would ever treat you with the more Coldness for
 “ what hath happened: your part having been taken under an
 “ Ignorance of their Views and Intentions; that Lord B. ex-
 “ pected however, as he had a Claim upon you, in right of
 “ Friendship, that you will concur with Him, and give your
 “ Aid to the Person he shall recommend, at a future Election.
 “ I answered to the last Point, that I knew not, how far you
 “ would think yourself bound in Honor to act with the Body of
 “ Whigs on such an Occasion; but if this Consideration did not
 “ hinder, I was sure you would be happy, to give him that or
 “ any other Evidence of your Respect for him.

“ You will be pleased therefore to consider well, and (if you
 “ please) with the Advice of your Friends, before you give an
 “ answer on this head, that may tie you down, for on that an-
 “ swer you plainly see, very much will depend.

“ I am,

“ Dear Sir,

“ faithfully Yours,

S. M.

To

To this Letter Mr. LEGGE returned the following Answer ;

“ Holte, Dec. 5th, 1759.

“ Dear M.

“ I return you many thanks for your Letter. Since I received it, I have had an Opportunity of seeing a little more of the Spirit and Temper of the County, and can answer it better, than I could have done sooner. L———r H———e do me great Justice in supposing I was totally ignorant of their concerning themselves at all in the Hampshire Election, at the time my Engagements were taken. I am obliged to Lord B. for any Intentions he had to save me, by the Advice he gave to drop the Opposition; but if Mr. Stuart, or his Friends, had accepted the Offer I made, with the Concurrence of my Friends, at the beginning, and as soon as I discovered what turn the Election might take, Every Wish of Mr. Stuart's had been secured, the Peace of the County never been interrupted, little less than 5000l. a piece saved to us both, and what is still of more Consequence, a Month's Fermentation of Parties been intirely prevented, which never fails to turn them all four. Many of these good Consequences had likewise been obtained, if the Gentlemen had consulted, and enabled Lord B. to put an end to the Contest, before I left London, when you know how unwilling I was to push it to Extremity.

“ As to the Event of the Election, there was not the least doubt about it. The County was thoroughly canvassed, and upon as exact Returns, as I believe ever are or can be made in a Case of this kind, I could have given Mr. Stuart all the doubtful ones and all the Neuters, in addition to his own Poll, and yet have carried the Election by a Majority of 1400. I did not come into a single Town, (except Alton) where it was not expected every day, that the Opposition would be given up, and where almost any Odds would not have been laid, that it never came to a Poll. Nor do I think, any Consultation would have been held about dropping the Affair, if all the

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“ Money

“ Money subscribed against me, and more, had not been ex-
 “ pended, and all Probability of carrying the Point intirely
 “ vanished. This is my own firm Opinion and Belief, and yet,
 “ whoever reads my Advertisement will see, that I have acted
 “ with the utmost Candor, and given my Opponents Credit for
 “ such Motives of Retreat, as I am sure do Them no Dishonour.
 “ The Expence indeed would have been enormous, if the Dis-
 “ pute had been carried thorough, and so far I own there is a
 “ Saving to us Both, for I am convinced it would have amounted
 “ to above 20,000*l.* a piece. This is a Sum I should have felt
 “ severely, and yet after my Offer to Compromise had been re-
 “ jected, I must and would have spent it, and could have done
 “ it, without mortgaging my Estate; I leave you to judge, what
 “ Effect it would have had on Mr. Stuart’s.

“ After saying thus much, I am very far from having any per-
 “ sonal Dislike to Mr. Stuart; on the contrary, I think he has
 “ been cruelly treated by some of his Friends, and if the pre-
 “ vailing Party in this County will receive him without Opposi-
 “ tion, I shall be very well satisfied and glad of it. But if the
 “ Whigs and Dissenters, who are very numerous in this County,
 “ will make a Point of opposing him, it will be impossible for
 “ me to declare for Him, and abandon those, who have sup-
 “ ported me, to take part with those, against whom they have
 “ supported me. This would not only put my own Election in
 “ Jeopardy, but be so ungrateful and disreputable a part for me
 “ to act, that it would in the same proportion make my Assist-
 “ ance ineffectual to the Person I should join with.

“ I am, &c.

“ H. B. Legge.”

Upon this Answer, Mr. LEGGE received a verbal Message from
 Lord B. by Mr. M. Dec. 12, 1759, the Purport of which was,
 as it stands upon Mr. LEGGE’s Paper, “ that he should bid adieu
 “ to the County of Southampton at the general Election, and as-
 “ sist, as far as lay in his power, the P—— of W——’s Nomi-
 “ nation of two Members;” to which Message a categorical An-
 swer

fewer was required, and Mr. LEGGE sent the following, in writing, on the same day ;

“ Mr. Legge understanding it to be expected, that He (who never had engaged at all in the County of Southampton, if the Intentions of L—rH—had been in time communicated to him) shall not only refuse to be chosen himself at the next general Election, but assist Lord Carnarvon and Mr. Stuart, in Opposition to those, who have supported Mr. Legge at the late Election; is determined to submit to any Consequences rather, than incur so great a Disgrace.”

Lord B. sent a Reply the same day, which Mr. M. wrote down from his mouth, in the following Words ;

“ The Instant Mr. Legge represents himself as bound in Honor not to decline standing for Hampshire, at the next general Election, Lord B. is firmly persuaded, that the P—— will by no means desire it of him ; but he does out of real Friendship to Mr. Legge beseech him to consider very seriously, whether, after triumphing over the P——’s Inclinations at present, Lord B. has any Method left of removing Prejudices, that the late unhappy Occurrences have strongly impressed the P—— with, than by being enabled to assure him, that Mr. Legge will, as far as shall be in his Power, co-operate with his R—— H——’s Wishes at the next general Election.”

Mr. LEGGE returned the following final Answer ;

“ Tho’ in fact Mr. Legge has been so unhappy, as to find himself opposed to the P—— of W——’s Inclinations, yet as to Intention, Mr. Legge feels himself intirely blameless ; and has too high a Veneration for the P—— of W——’s Justice to think, He will conceive lasting Prejudices against any Man, for resisting those Inclinations, of which he was totally ignorant.

As

“ As Mr. Legge flatters himself, this Consideration will induce
 “ the P—— of W—— to forgive his entering into Engage-
 “ ments with the County of Southampton, he is certain, that his
 “ R—— H—— will not condemn his adhering to those En-
 “ gagements, when entered into.

“ God forbid, Mr. Legge should be suspected of triumphing
 “ over the P—— of W——’s Inclinations ! The Contrary was
 “ so much his Intention, that from the Moment he discovered,
 “ which way those Inclinations lay, there was no Endeavour he
 “ did not use, to avoid the Dispute with Honor; nor did Mr.
 “ Legge exert himself, either in point of Expence or personal
 “ Application, till all Compromise being rejected, he had no
 “ other Part left to act.

“ Mr. Legge is obliged to Lord B. for the Friendship he ex-
 “ presses toward him. Surely his Lordship cannot doubt but
 “ that Mr. Legge should be extremely glad, if he could find
 “ himself in such a Situation, as would permit him to have
 “ the Honor of obeying the P—— of W——’s Commands, and
 “ seconding his Wishes, without breaking the Faith he has
 “ openly and publicly pledged to the County of Southampton.
 “ This if he were to do, he should forfeit all Title to the P——
 “ of W——’s Countenance and Protection as certainly, as he
 “ knows he should forfeit his R—— H——’s private good
 “ Opinion.”

Here the Correspondence ended. His late Majesty died the year following, and at the End of the first Session of Parliament, after his present Majesty’s Accession, Mr. LEGGE was dismissed, or, as he chose to express it, TURNED OUT, after having served the Crown and the Public, in his Department, during that Session, with his usual Ability and Fidelity.

He had abundant Resources, in his own Mind, to reconcile him to private Life, and might have had his Disgrace glossed over
 by

by a Favor, which he declined. He said, it was his Duty to SUBMIT, but not, to APPROVE. He had the more valuable and independent Satisfaction, soon after the Event, to be Unanimously chosen to represent the County of Southampton, at the general Election.

The Circumstances of his last Illness are no farther connected with this Account of him, than as some of them remarkably confirmed it, by exhibiting the natural Serenity of a strong and good Mind, in the last and greatest of all human Distresses. As he was above dissembling his Satisfaction at the Hopes of Life, which frequently appeared, so as he was above regretting the Loss of longer Life, or dreading the Approach of Death, when his Case was pronounced desperate. He would reason about the little difference betwixt dying at one time or another, or of this or that Disease, with a most exemplary Calmness, and with the same undisturbed state of Mind, with which any Philosopher, in perfect Health, ever wrote about Death. And when the Sentence of Nature against him appeared quite irrevocable, he was a shining, tho' melancholy, Instance of a Truth, from which great Conclusions have been drawn, that the Life and Vigor of the human Mind may continue to the last, unimpaired by the most extreme Weakness and Decay of Body.

It would be too little to say of so Excellent a Man, that the Memory of him will be honored, during the Lives of his Survivors; for, if eminent Ability and Integrity, manifested in Offices of the highest Trust and Consequence; if a Zeal for public Liberty, exerted on all proper Occasions, with Firmness and Decency; if all the Talents and Virtues, which render Men Respectable and Amiable, united in one Conspicuous Character, and applied to the Benefit of Mankind, give that Character any Chance for permanent Fame after Death, it may be Confidently hoped, that Mr. LEGGE will, in the Opinion of Posterity, be intitled to one of the first Places among the WORTHIES of the present Age.

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